

week were perhaps forwarded to the
Aldine Hotel at Philadelphia or perhaps
elsewhere - so I enclose a post card
with the address in blank asking to
have them sent to you - Better late
than never. Hooker is such a punctilious
correspondent that I rather think he
has written to me & sh^d be sorry to
lose his letter.

We trust that Mrs Gray was not
overfatigued by her excursion to
the Alleghenies - I shall always count
it as among the most enjoyable I
have ever made - combining natural
beauty - glorious vegetation & delightful
Society - and all this in addition to
much else I owe altogether to you.

Ever truly yours

John Ball

P.S. My wife sends her love to Mrs Gray
& hopes to meet her again very soon
under less trying conditions than those
of Philadelphia
Of course I shall write again & give you an
address when we have decided on place.

Niagara Falls (Cataract House) 27 Sept

My dear Gray - I write mainly to
report progress. My wife joined me at
Harrisburgh two or three hours after my
arrival. I had a good bout of work
in changing papers &c. & in making
ready the parcel which I despatched
to Cambridge - as already announced
by my postal Card - On Wednesday evening
we stopped at Watkins Glen where it
rained all night & we saw little beyond
the hotel & the bridge crossing the gorge -
On Thursday as we travelled this way
the sky cleared & I had time before
dark to go round Goat Island -
Yesterday was very fine in the morning
We spent some hours again on Goat
Island & went in the afternoon across
the Suspension Bridge - enjoyed the
glorious views but found everything
near the Great Fall very wet from

The spray carried by the SE wind
which 'as is its nature to' brought
rain at night & this morning.

This is a place of which one could
not soon tire & we shall remain
till Tuesday at least. I wrote to
the Kaaterskill Hotel for information
(how long the house is open &c.) but as yet
have no answer so that we are rather
uncertain as to our movements -
shall perhaps go to Lake George
or to the Thousand Islands.

The only thing clear is that I am
anxious to reach Boston on or about
10th Oct. We then hope to accept your
hospitality - and I think of going at once
to your house if that be entirely convenient -
My wife wishes to remain over Sunday at
Boston & on the following day will be
happy to place herself under your
roof always supposing that this
remains convenient to you & Mrs Gray.

For my part ~~or~~ I shall look on the days
spent at Cambridge as precious &
I shall care very little about the sights
of New York - but I think that my wife
who is rather fond of cities will like
to have a few days there before we
depart from this Continent -

Meanwhile the weather is a good deal
warmer than I like & I rather sigh
for the brisk fresh air of Roan Mountain
or even of the Salt Pond - but such
a luxury is not easily found on this
Continent as the foolish people seem
to fly from the mountains just when
they become most salubrious.
We like this hotel very much & bless
Mrs Gray for having sent us here.

It would appear that two newspapers
& also possibly some letters have gone
astray - we found here two letters one for my wife
& one for me & two newspapers which
probably reached Boston about the 22^d but
all of which Mr Watson was good enough
to forward - but the papers of the preceding